

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the combination of claim 31. The Examiner also allowed claims 23-31, pending correction of the specification objection.

Though Applicants do not necessarily agree with the assertions made in the Office Action, Applicants propose canceling claim 31 to expedite prosecution and place claims 23-30 in condition for allowance. Applicants also propose amending claim 28 to correct a minor informality.

The Office Action contains statements and characterizations regarding the claims. Applicants decline to necessarily subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action, regardless of whether it is addressed above.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 23-30 in condition for allowance. The proposed amendment of claim 28 does not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were earlier claimed. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. In addition, entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final Action and place the application in condition for allowance. The entry of the amendment also would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of these remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's


reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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